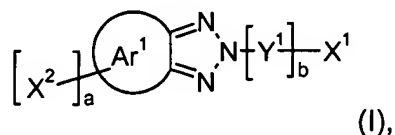


IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. **(currently amended):** An electroluminescent device, comprising a 2H-benzotriazole compound of the formula



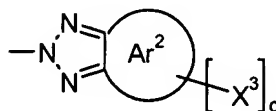
where

a is 0, or 1,

b is 0, or 1,

with the proviso that if b is 1, then a is 1,

X¹ is a group of formula



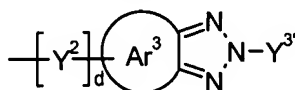
if b is 1 ~~and a is 1,~~

or Y³, if b is 0,

wherein

c is 0, or 1

X² and X³ are independently of each other a group of formula



wherein d is 0, or 1,

Ar¹, Ar², and Ar³ are independently of each other C₆-C₃₀aryl or a C₂-C₂₆heteroaryl, which can optionally be substituted,

Y¹ and Y² are independently of each other a divalent linking group selected from the group consisting of

n1, n2, n3, n4, n5, n6 and n7 are 1, 2, or 3,

E¹ is -S-, -O-, or -NR^{25'}-, wherein R^{25'} is C₁-C₂₄alkyl, or C₆-C₁₀aryl,

R⁶ and R⁷ are independently of each other H, halogen, hydroxy, C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₁-C₂₄perfluoroalkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by S-, -O-, or -NR²⁵-, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkoxy, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkoxy which is substituted by E, C₆-C₂₄aryl, C₆-C₂₄aryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₄alkenyl, C₂-C₂₄alkynyl, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₇-C₂₅aralkyl, C₇-C₂₅aralkyl, which is substituted by E, C₇-C₂₅aralkoxy, C₇-C₂₅aralkoxy which is substituted by E, or -CO-R²⁸,

R⁸ is C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₆-C₂₄aryl, or C₇-C₂₅aralkyl,

R⁹ and R¹⁰ are independently of each other C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₆-C₂₄aryl, C₆-C₂₄aryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₄alkenyl, C₂-C₂₄alkynyl, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, or C₇-C₂₅aralkyl, or

R⁹ and R¹⁰ form a five- or six-membered ring,

R¹⁴ and R¹⁵ are independently of each other H, C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₆-C₂₄aryl, C₆-C₂₄aryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl, or C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl which is substituted by E,

D is -CO-, -COO-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -O-, -NR²⁵-, -SiR³⁰R³¹-, -POR³²-, -CR²³=CR²⁴-, or -C≡C-, and E is -OR²⁹-, -SR²⁹-, -NR²⁵R²⁶-, -COR²⁸-, -COOR²⁷-, -CONR²⁵R²⁶-, -CN, -OCOOR²⁷-, or halogen, wherein

R²³, R²⁴, R²⁵ and R²⁶ are independently of each other H, C₆-C₁₈aryl, C₆-C₁₈aryl which is substituted by C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy, C₁-C₂₄alkyl, or C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is interrupted by -O-, or

R²⁵ and R²⁶ together form a five or six membered ring,

R²⁷ and R²⁸ are independently of each other H, C₆-C₁₈aryl, C₆-C₁₈aryl which is substituted by C₁-C₂₄alkyl, or C₁-C₂₄alkoxy, C₁-C₂₄alkyl, or C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is interrupted by -O-,

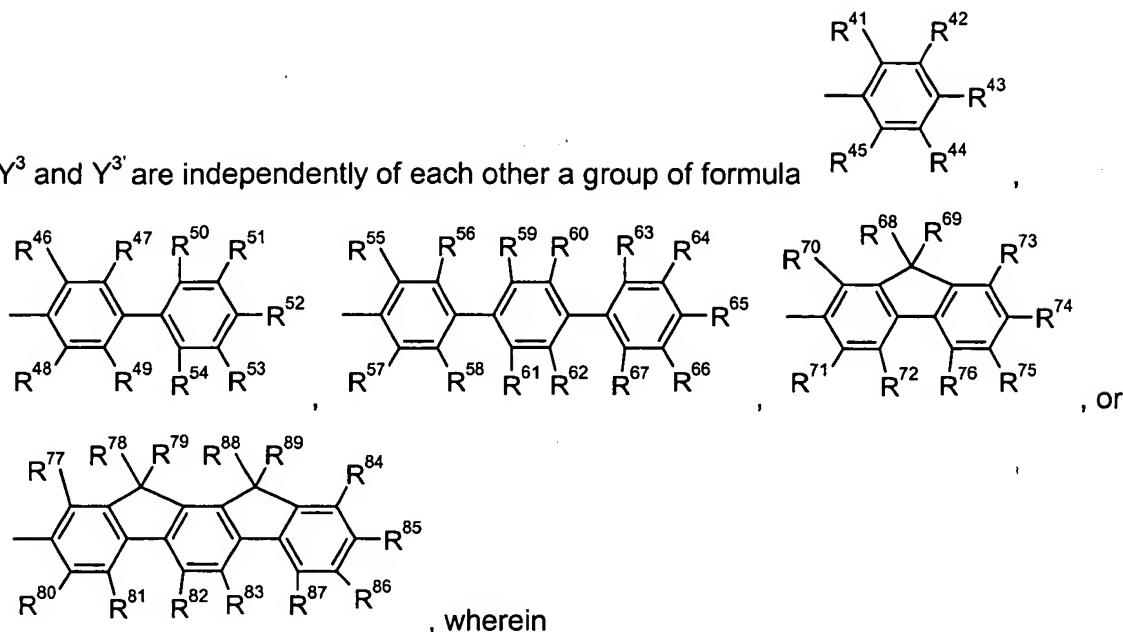
R²⁹ is H, C₆-C₁₈aryl, C₆-C₁₈aryl, which is substituted by C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy, C₁-C₂₄alkyl, or C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is interrupted by -O-,

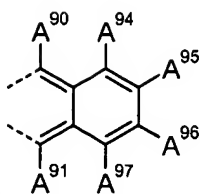
R³⁰ and R³¹ are independently of each other C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₆-C₁₈aryl, or C₆-C₁₈aryl, which is substituted by C₁-C₂₄alkyl, and

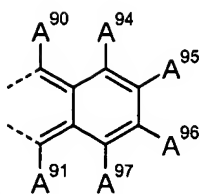
R³² is C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₆-C₁₈aryl, or C₆-C₁₈aryl, which is substituted by C₁-C₂₄alkyl,

and

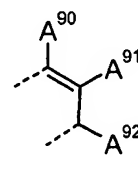
Y^3 and $Y^{3'}$ are independently of each other a group of formula





or , wherein A⁹⁰, A⁹¹, A⁹², A⁹³, A⁹⁴, A⁹⁵, A⁹⁶ and A⁹⁷ are independently of each other H, halogen, hydroxy, C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₁-C₂₄perfluoroalkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by S-, -O-, or -NR²⁵-, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkoxy, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkoxy which is substituted by E, C₆-C₂₄aryl, C₆-C₂₄aryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₄alkenyl, C₂-C₂₄alkynyl, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₇-C₂₅aralkyl, C₇-C₂₅aralkyl, which is substituted by E, C₇-C₂₅aralkoxy, C₇-C₂₅aralkoxy which is substituted by E, or -CO-R²⁸,

R⁶⁸, R⁶⁹, R⁷⁸, R⁷⁹, R⁸⁸ and R⁸⁹ are independently of each other C₁-C₁₈ alkyl, C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₆-C₂₄aryl, C₆-C₂₄aryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₄alkenyl, C₂-C₂₄alkynyl, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, or C₇-C₂₅aralkyl, or R⁶⁸ and R⁶⁹, R⁷⁸ and R⁷⁹, and/or R⁸⁸ and R⁸⁹ form a five- or six-membered ring, or



R⁶⁸ and R⁷⁰, R⁶⁹ and R⁷³, R⁷⁷ and R⁷⁸ and/or R⁸⁴ and R⁸⁹ are a group

D is -CO-; -COO-; -S-; -SO-; -SO₂-; -O-; -NR²⁵-; -SiR³⁰R³¹-; -POR³²-; -CR²³=CR²⁴-; or -C≡C-; and E is -OR²⁹; -SR²⁹; -NR²⁵R²⁶; -COR²⁸; -COOR²⁷; -CONR²⁵R²⁶; -CN; -OCOOR²⁷; or halogen;

wherein

R²³, R²⁴, R²⁵ and R²⁶ are independently of each other H; C₆-C₁₈aryl; C₆-C₁₈aryl which is substituted by C₁-C₂₄alkyl, or C₁-C₂₄alkoxy; C₁-C₂₄alkyl; or C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is interrupted by -O-; or

R²⁵ and R²⁶ together form a five or six membered ring,

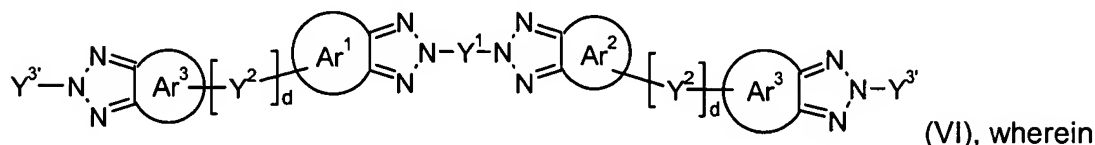
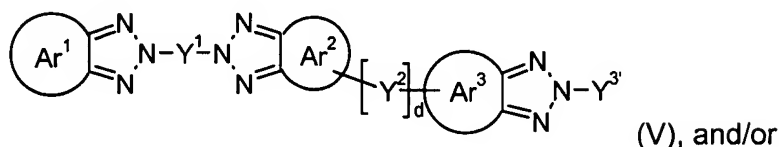
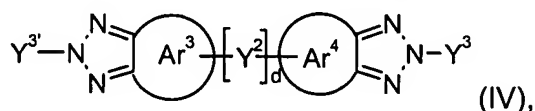
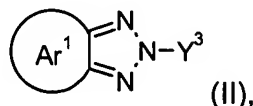
R²⁷ and R²⁸ are independently of each other H; C₆-C₁₈aryl; C₆-C₁₈aryl which is substituted by C₁-C₂₄alkyl, or C₁-C₂₄alkoxy; C₁-C₂₄alkyl; or C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is interrupted by -O-,

R²⁹ is H; C₆-C₁₈aryl; C₆-C₁₈aryl, which is substituted by C₁-C₂₄alkyl, or C₁-C₂₄alkoxy; C₁-C₂₄alkyl; or C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is interrupted by -O-,

R³⁰ and R³¹ are independently of each other C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₆-C₁₈aryl, or C₆-C₁₈aryl, which is substituted by C₁-C₂₄alkyl, and

R³² is C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₆-C₁₈aryl, or C₆-C₁₈aryl, which is substituted by C₁-C₂₄alkyl.

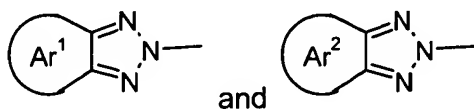
2. (currently amended): An electroluminescent device according to claim 1, comprising a 2H-benzotriazole compound of the formula



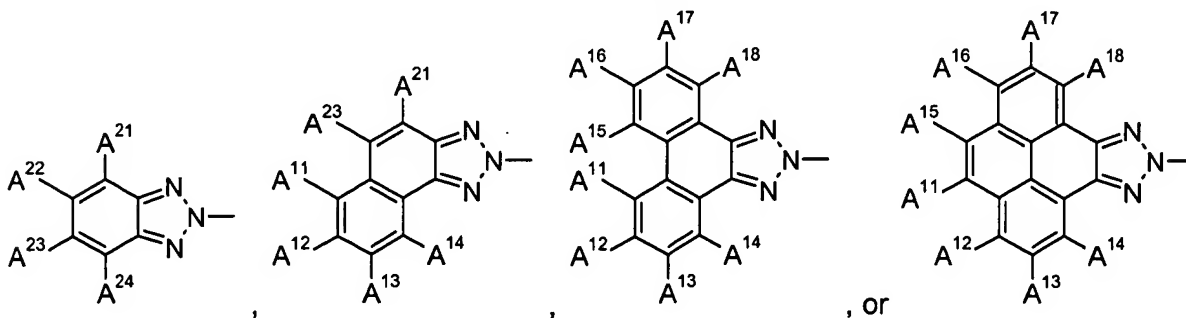
d, Ar¹, Ar², Ar³, Y³, Y^{3'}, Y¹ and Y² are defined as in claim 1 and

Ar⁴ stand for C₆-C₃₀aryl or a C₂-C₂₆heteroaryl, which can optionally be substituted.

3. (previously presented): An electroluminescent device according to claim 2, wherein



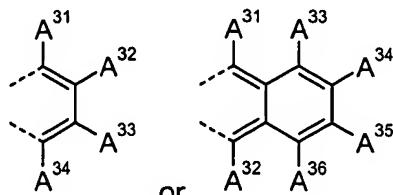
in formula II are independently of each other a group of formula



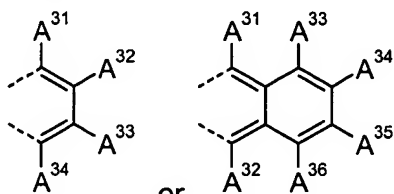
wherein

A²¹, A²², A²³, A²⁴, A¹¹, A¹², A¹³, A¹⁴, A¹⁵, A¹⁶, A¹⁷ and A¹⁸ are independently of each other H, halogen, hydroxy, C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₁-C₂₄perfluoroalkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted

by S-, -O-, or -NR²⁵-, -NR²⁵R²⁶, C₁-C₂₄alkylthio, -PR³²R³², C₅-C₁₂cycloalkoxy, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkoxy which is substituted by E, C₆-C₂₄aryl, C₆-C₂₄aryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₄alkenyl, C₂-C₂₄alkynyl, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₇-C₂₅aralkyl, C₇-C₂₅aralkyl, which is substituted by E, C₇-C₂₅aralkoxy, C₇-C₂₅aralkoxy which is substituted by E, or -CO-R²⁸, or



A²² and A²³ or A¹¹ and A²³ are a group
two groups A¹¹, A¹², A¹³, A¹⁴, A¹⁵, A¹⁶, A¹⁷ and A¹⁸, which are neighbouring to each other, are a



group, or, wherein A³¹, A³², A³³, A³⁴, A³⁵, A³⁶ and A³⁷ are independently of each other H, halogen, hydroxy, C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₁-C₂₄perfluoroalkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by S-, -O-, or -NR²⁵-, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkoxy, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkoxy which is substituted by E, C₆-C₂₄aryl, C₆-C₂₄aryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₄alkenyl, C₂-C₂₄alkynyl, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₇-C₂₅aralkyl, C₇-C₂₅aralkyl, which is substituted by E, C₇-C₂₅aralkoxy, C₇-C₂₅aralkoxy which is substituted by E, or -CO-R²⁸, D is -CO-; -COO-; -S-; -SO-; -SO₂-; -O-; -NR²⁵-, -SiR³⁰R³¹-, -POR³²-, -CR²³=CR²⁴-, or -C≡C-; and E is -OR²⁹-, -SR²⁹-, -NR²⁵R²⁶-, -COR²⁸-, -COOR²⁷-, -CONR²⁵R²⁶-, -CN; -OCOOR²⁷; or halogen; wherein

R²³, R²⁴, R²⁵ and R²⁶ are independently of each other H; C₆-C₁₈aryl; C₆-C₁₈aryl which is substituted by C₁-C₂₄alkyl, or C₁-C₂₄alkoxy; C₁-C₂₄alkyl; or C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is interrupted by -O-; or

R²⁵ and R²⁶ together form a five or six membered ring,

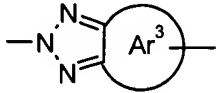
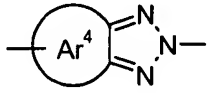
R²⁷ and R²⁸ are independently of each other H; C₆-C₁₈aryl; C₆-C₁₈aryl which is substituted by C₁-C₂₄alkyl, or C₁-C₂₄alkoxy; C₁-C₂₄alkyl; or C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is interrupted by -O-,

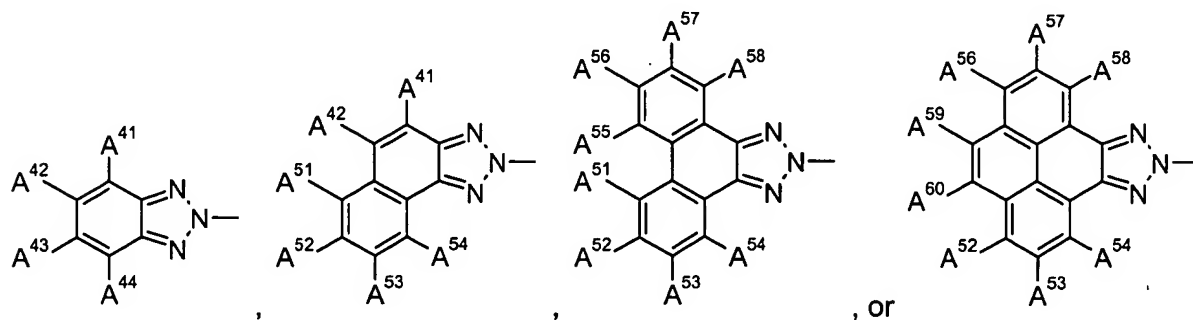
R²⁹ is H; C₆-C₁₈aryl; C₆-C₁₈aryl, which is substituted by C₁-C₂₄alkyl, or C₁-C₂₄alkoxy; C₁-C₂₄alkyl; or C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is interrupted by -O-,

R^{30} and R^{31} are independently of each other C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, C_6 - C_{18} aryl, or C_6 - C_{18} aryl, which is substituted by C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, and

R^{32} is C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, C_6 - C_{18} aryl, or C_6 - C_{18} aryl, which is substituted by C_1 - C_{24} alkyl.

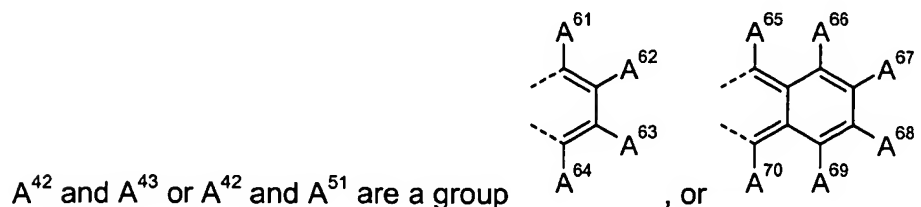
4. (previously presented): An electroluminescent device according to claim 2, wherein

 and  in formula IV are independently of each other a group of formula

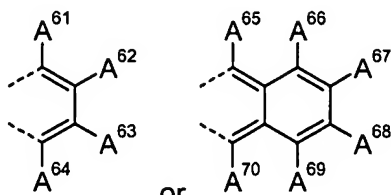


wherein

A^{41} , A^{42} , A^{43} , A^{44} , A^{51} , A^{52} , A^{53} , A^{54} , A^{55} , A^{56} , A^{57} , A^{58} , A^{59} and A^{60} are independently of each other H, halogen, hydroxy, C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, C_1 - C_{24} alkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C_1 - C_{24} perfluoroalkyl, C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by S-, -O-, or - NR^{25} -, $NR^{25}R^{26}$, C_1 - C_{24} alkylthio, - $PR^{32}R^{32}$, C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkoxy, C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkoxy which is substituted by E, C_6 - C_{24} aryl, C_6 - C_{24} aryl which is substituted by E, C_2 - C_{20} heteroaryl, C_2 - C_{20} heteroaryl which is substituted by E, C_2 - C_{24} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{24} alkynyl, C_1 - C_{24} alkoxy, C_1 - C_{24} alkoxy which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C_7 - C_{25} aralkyl, C_7 - C_{25} aralkyl, which is substituted by E, C_7 - C_{25} aralkoxy, C_7 - C_{25} aralkoxy which is substituted by E, or - $CO-R^{28}$, or



two groups A^{51} , A^{52} , A^{53} , A^{54} , A^{55} , A^{56} , A^{57} , A^{58} , A^{59} and A^{60} , which are neighbouring to each



other, are a group , or , wherein A^{61} , A^{62} , A^{63} , A^{64} , A^{65} , A^{66} , A^{67} , A^{68} , A^{69} and A^{70} are independently of each other H, halogen, hydroxy, C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, C_1 - C_{24} alkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C_1 - C_{24} perfluoroalkyl, C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by S-, -O-, or - NR^{25} -, C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkoxy, C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkoxy which is substituted by E, C_6 - C_{24} aryl, C_6 - C_{24} aryl which is substituted by E, C_2 - C_{20} heteroaryl, C_2 - C_{20} heteroaryl which is substituted by E, C_2 - C_{24} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{24} alkynyl, C_1 - C_{24} alkoxy, C_1 - C_{24} alkoxy which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C_7 - C_{25} aralkyl, C_7 - C_{25} aralkyl, which is substituted by E, C_7 - C_{25} aralkoxy, C_7 - C_{25} aralkoxy which is substituted by E, or -CO- R^{28} ,

D is -CO-; -COO-; -S-; -SO-; -SO₂-; -O-; - NR^{25} -; -Si $R^{30}R^{31}$ -; -POR³²-; -CR²³=CR²⁴-; or -C≡C-; and E is -OR²⁹; -SR²⁹; - $NR^{25}R^{26}$; -COR²⁸; -COOR²⁷; -CONR²⁵R²⁶; -CN; -OCOOR²⁷; or halogen;

wherein

R^{23} , R^{24} , R^{25} and R^{26} are independently of each other H; C_6 - C_{18} aryl; C_6 - C_{18} aryl which is substituted by C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, or C_1 - C_{24} alkoxy; C_1 - C_{24} alkyl; or C_1 - C_{24} alkyl which is interrupted by -O-; or

R^{25} and R^{26} together form a five or six membered ring,

R^{27} and R^{28} are independently of each other H; C_6 - C_{18} aryl; C_6 - C_{18} aryl which is substituted by C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, or C_1 - C_{24} alkoxy; C_1 - C_{24} alkyl; or C_1 - C_{24} alkyl which is interrupted by -O-,

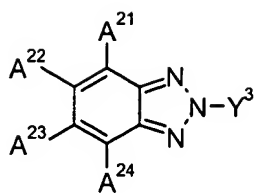
R^{29} is H; C_6 - C_{18} aryl; C_6 - C_{18} aryl, which is substituted by C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, or C_1 - C_{24} alkoxy; C_1 - C_{24} alkyl; or C_1 - C_{24} alkyl which is interrupted by -O-,

R^{30} and R^{31} are independently of each other C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, C_6 - C_{18} aryl, or C_6 - C_{18} aryl, which is substituted by C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, and

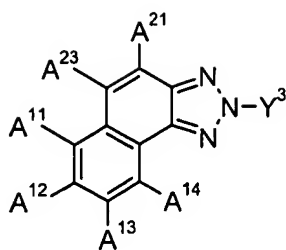
R^{32} is C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, C_6 - C_{18} aryl, or C_6 - C_{18} aryl, which is substituted by C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, wherein one of the substituents A^{41} , A^{42} , A^{43} , A^{44} , A^{51} , A^{52} , A^{53} , A^{54} , A^{55} , A^{56} , A^{57} , A^{58} , A^{59} , A^{60} , A^{61} , A^{62} , A^{63} , A^{64} , A^{65} , A^{66} , A^{67} , A^{68} , A^{69} and A^{70} represents a single bond.

5-6. (canceled)

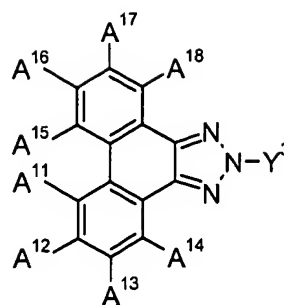
7. (previously presented): An electroluminescent device according to claim 2, wherein the 2H-benzotriazole compound is a compound of formula



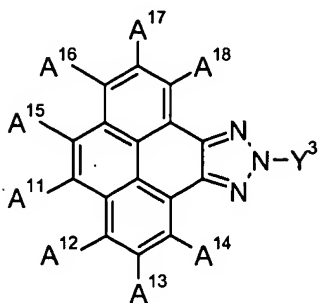
(IIa),



(IIb),



(IIc), or



(IId), wherein

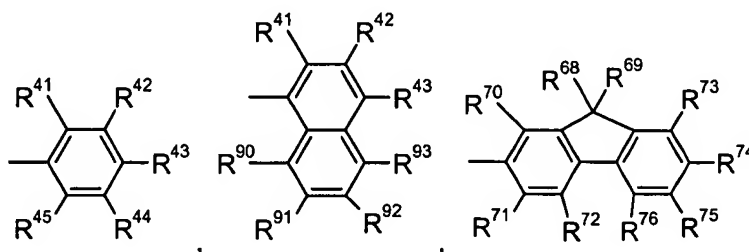
A²¹, A²², A²³ and A²⁴ are independently of each other hydrogen, halogen, C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₁-C₂₄perfluoroalkyl, C₆-C₁₈aryl, -NR²⁵R²⁶, -CONR²⁵R²⁶, or -COOR²⁷, or C₂-C₁₀heteroaryl, or



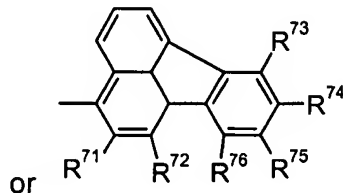
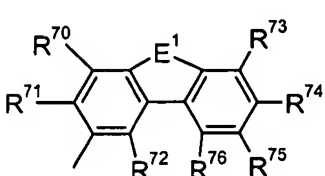
A²² and A²³ or A¹¹ and A²³ are a group of formula

A¹¹, A¹², A¹³, A¹⁴, A¹⁵, A¹⁶, A¹⁷, and A¹⁸ are independently of each other H, CN, C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy, C₁-C₂₄alkylthio, C₆-C₁₈aryl, -NR²⁵R²⁶, -CONR²⁵R²⁶, or -COOR²⁷, or C₂-C₁₀heteroaryl, wherein

R²⁵ and R²⁶ are independently of each other H, C₆-C₁₈aryl, C₇-C₁₈aralkyl, or C₁-C₂₄alkyl, R²⁷ is C₁-C₂₄alkyl, and



Y³ is a group of formula

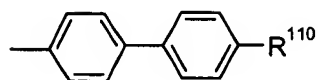
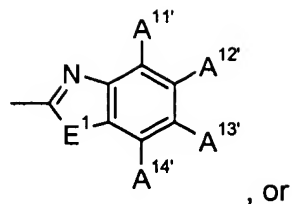


or , wherein

R⁴¹ is hydrogen, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy, or OC₇-C₁₈aralkyl,

R⁴² is hydrogen, or C₁-C₂₄alkyl,

R^{43} is hydrogen, halogen, $-\text{CONR}^{25}\text{R}^{26}$, $-\text{COOR}^{27}$,

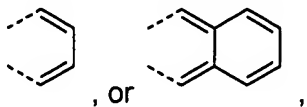


, wherein

E^1 is $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{O}-$, or $-\text{NR}^{25}-$, wherein R^{25} is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkyl, or $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10}$ aryl,

R^{110} is H, CN, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkoxy, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkylthio, $-\text{NR}^{25}\text{R}^{26}$, $-\text{CONR}^{25}\text{R}^{26}$, or $-\text{COOR}^{27}$, or

R^{42} and R^{43} are a group of formula



, or

R^{44} is hydrogen, or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkyl,

R^{45} is hydrogen, or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkyl,

$A^{11'}$, $A^{12'}$, $A^{13'}$, and $A^{14'}$ are independently of each other H, CN, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkoxy, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkylthio, $-\text{NR}^{25}\text{R}^{26}$, $-\text{CONR}^{25}\text{R}^{26}$, or $-\text{COOR}^{27}$,

R^{68} and R^{69} are independently of each other $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkyl, which can be interrupted by one or two oxygen atoms,

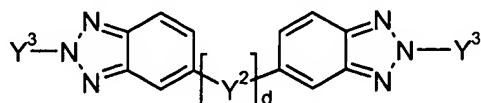
R^{70} , R^{71} , R^{72} , R^{73} , R^{74} , R^{75} , R^{76} , R^{90} , R^{91} , R^{92} , and R^{93} are independently of each other H, CN, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10}$ aryl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkoxy, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkylthio, $-\text{NR}^{25}\text{R}^{26}$, $-\text{CONR}^{25}\text{R}^{26}$, or $-\text{COOR}^{27}$,

R^{25} and R^{26} are independently of each other H, $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{18}$ aryl, $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{18}$ aralkyl, or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkyl, and

R^{27} is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{24}$ alkyl.

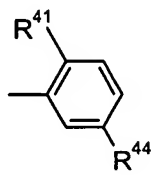
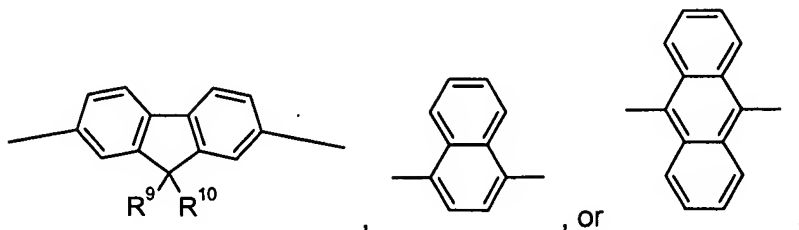
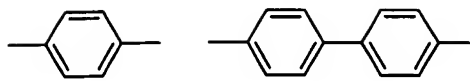
8. (cancelled).

9. (previously presented): An electroluminescent device according to claim 2, wherein the 2H-benzotriazole compound is a compound of formula



(VIa), wherein d is 0, or 1,

Y² is a group of formula -O-, -S-, -NR²⁵-,



Y³ is a group of formula

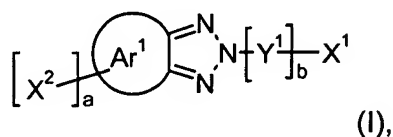
R⁹ and R¹⁰ are independently of each other C₁-C₂₄alkyl, which can be interrupted by one or two oxygen atoms,

R²⁵ is H, C₆-C₁₈aryl, C₇-C₁₈aralkyl, or C₁-C₂₄alkyl,

R⁴¹ is C₁-C₂₄alkoxy, or C₇-C₁₅phenylalkoxy, and

R⁴⁴ is H, or C₁-C₂₄alkyl.

10. (currently amended): A 2H-benzotriazole compound of the formula

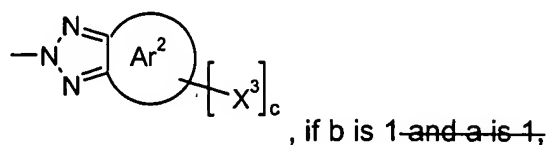


a is 0, or 1,

b is 0, or 1,

with the proviso that if b is 1, then a is 1,

X¹ is a group of formula

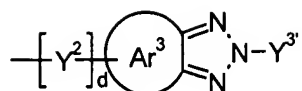


or Y³, if b is 0,

wherein

c is 0, or 1

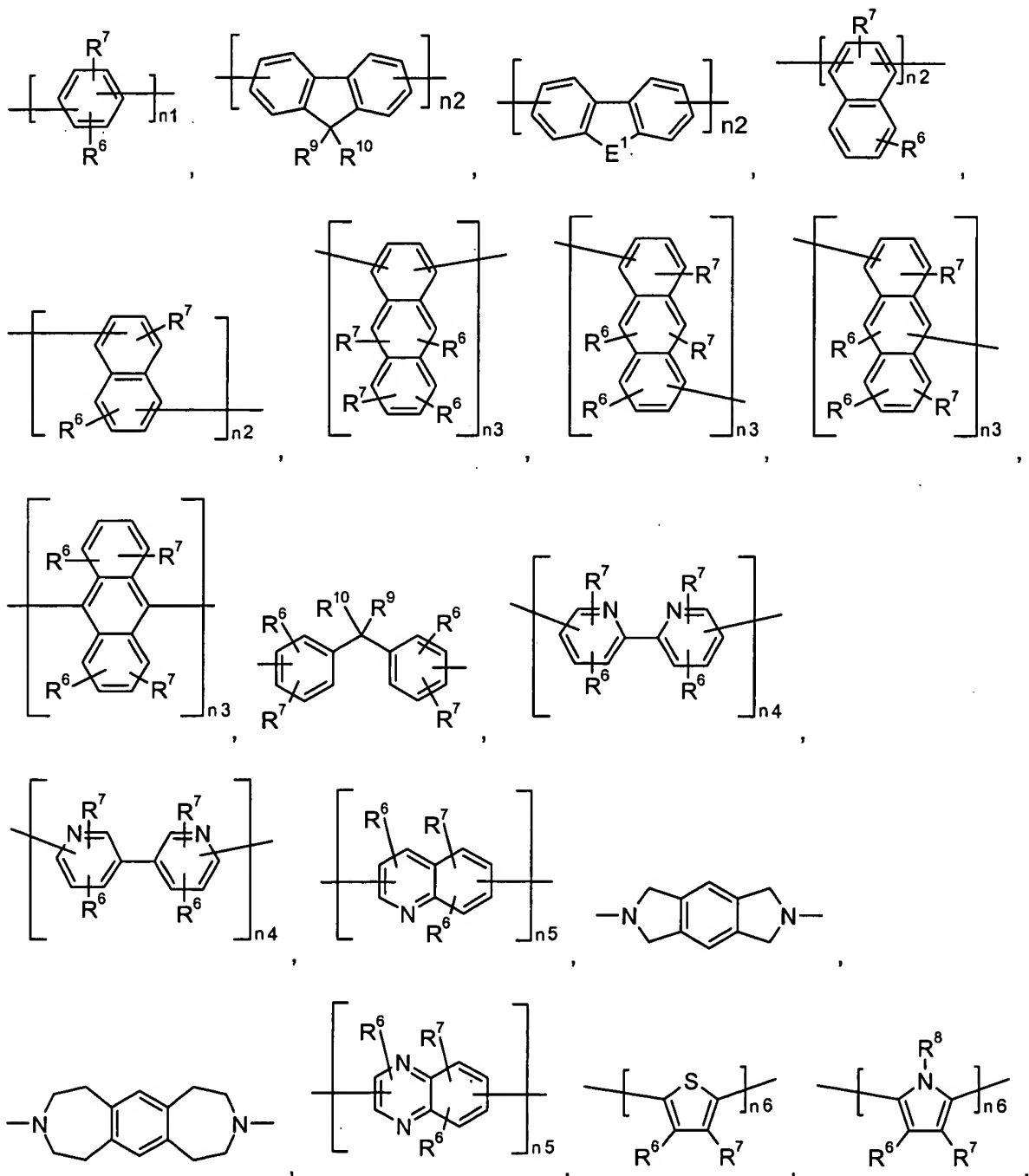
X² and X³ are independently of each other a group of formula

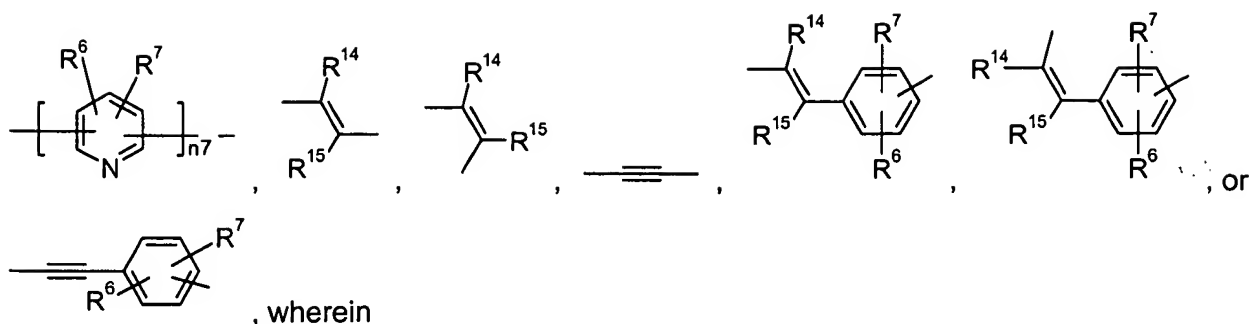


, wherein d is 0, or 1,

Ar¹, Ar², and Ar³ are independently of each other C₆-C₃₀aryl or a C₂-C₂₆heteroaryl, which can optionally be substituted,

Y¹ and Y² are independently of each other a divalent linking group selected from the group consisting of





$n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5, n_6$ and n_7 are 1, 2, or 3,

E^1 is -S-, -O-, or -NR^{25'}-, wherein R^{25'} is C₁-C₂₄alkyl, or C₆-C₁₀aryl,

R⁶ and R⁷ are independently of each other H, halogen, hydroxy, C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₁-C₂₄perfluoroalkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by S-, -O-, or -NR²⁵-, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkoxy, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkoxy which is substituted by E, C₆-C₂₄aryl, C₆-C₂₄aryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₄alkenyl, C₂-C₂₄alkynyl, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₇-C₂₅aralkyl, C₇-C₂₅aralkyl, which is substituted by E, C₇-C₂₅aralkoxy, C₇-C₂₅aralkoxy which is substituted by E, or -CO-R²⁸,

R⁸ is C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₆-C₂₄aryl, or C₇-C₂₅aralkyl,

R⁹ and R¹⁰ are independently of each other C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₆-C₂₄aryl, C₆-C₂₄aryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₄alkenyl, C₂-C₂₄alkynyl, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, or C₇-C₂₅aralkyl, or

R⁹ and R¹⁰ form a five- or six-membered ring,

R¹⁴ and R¹⁵ are independently of each other H, C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C₆-C₂₄aryl, C₆-C₂₄aryl which is substituted by E, C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl, or C₂-C₂₀heteroaryl which is substituted by E,

D is -CO-, -COO-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-, -O-, -NR²⁵-, -SiR³⁰R³¹-, -POR³²-, -CR²³=CR²⁴-, or -C≡C-, and

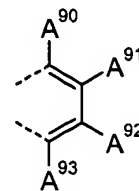
E is -OR²⁹-, -SR²⁹-, -NR²⁵R²⁶-, -COR²⁸-, -COOR²⁷-, -CONR²⁵R²⁶-, -CN, -OCOOR²⁷-, or halogen,

wherein

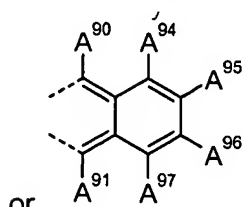
R²³, R²⁴, R²⁵ and R²⁶ are independently of each other H, C₆-C₁₈aryl, C₆-C₁₈aryl which is substituted by C₁-C₂₄alkyl, C₁-C₂₄alkoxy, C₁-C₂₄alkyl, or C₁-C₂₄alkyl which is interrupted by -O-, or

R²⁵ and R²⁶ together form a five or six membered ring,

two groups $R^{41}, R^{42}, R^{43}, R^{44}, R^{45}, R^{46}, R^{47}, R^{48}, R^{49}, R^{50}, R^{51}, R^{52}, R^{53}, R^{54}, R^{55}, R^{56}, R^{57}, R^{58}, R^{59}, R^{60}, R^{61}, R^{62}, R^{63}, R^{64}, R^{65}, R^{66}, R^{67}, R^{70}, R^{71}, R^{72}, R^{73}, R^{74}, R^{75}, R^{76}, R^{77}, R^{80}, R^{81}, R^{82}, R^{83}, R^{84},$

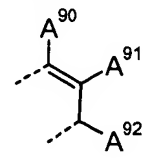


R^{85}, R^{86} , and R^{87} , which are neighbouring to each other, are a group



or $A^{90}, A^{91}, A^{92}, A^{93}, A^{94}, A^{95}, A^{96}$ and A^{97} are independently of each other H, halogen, hydroxy, C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, C_1 - C_{24} alkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C_1 - C_{24} perfluoroalkyl, C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by S-, -O-, or - NR^{25} -, C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkoxy, C_5 - C_{12} cycloalkoxy which is substituted by E, C_6 - C_{24} aryl, C_6 - C_{24} aryl which is substituted by E, C_2 - C_{20} heteroaryl, C_2 - C_{20} heteroaryl which is substituted by E, C_2 - C_{24} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{24} alkynyl, C_1 - C_{24} alkoxy, C_1 - C_{24} alkoxy which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C_7 - C_{25} aralkyl, C_7 - C_{25} aralkyl, which is substituted by E, C_7 - C_{25} aralkoxy, C_7 - C_{25} aralkoxy which is substituted by E, or - $CO-R^{28}$,

$R^{68}, R^{69}, R^{78}, R^{79}, R^{88}$ and R^{89} are independently of each other C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_1 - C_{24} alkyl which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, C_6 - C_{24} aryl, C_6 - C_{24} aryl which is substituted by E, C_2 - C_{20} heteroaryl, C_2 - C_{20} heteroaryl which is substituted by E, C_2 - C_{24} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{24} alkynyl, C_1 - C_{24} alkoxy, C_1 - C_{24} alkoxy which is substituted by E and/or interrupted by D, or C_7 - C_{25} aralkyl, or R^{68} and R^{69}, R^{78} and R^{79} , and/or R^{88} and R^{89} form a five- or six-membered ring, or



R^{68} and R^{70}, R^{69} and R^{73}, R^{77} and R^{78} and/or R^{84} and R^{89} are a group

D is -CO-; -COO-; -S-; -SO-; -SO₂-; -O-; - NR^{25} -; - $SiR^{30}R^{31}$ -; -POR³²-; -CR²³=CR²⁴-; or -C≡C-; and E is -OR²⁹; -SR²⁹; - $NR^{25}R^{26}$; -COR²⁸; -COOR²⁷; -CONR²⁵R²⁶; -CN; -OCOOR²⁷; or halogen;

wherein

R^{23}, R^{24}, R^{25} and R^{26} are independently of each other H; C_6 - C_{18} aryl; C_6 - C_{18} aryl which is substituted by C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, or C_1 - C_{24} alkoxy; C_1 - C_{24} alkyl; or C_1 - C_{24} alkyl which is interrupted by -O-; or

R^{25} and R^{26} together form a five or six membered ring,

R^{27} and R^{28} are independently of each other H; $C_6-C_{18}aryl$; $C_6-C_{18}aryl$ which is substituted by $C_1-C_{24}alkyl$, or $C_1-C_{24}alkoxy$; $C_1-C_{24}alkyl$; or $C_1-C_{24}alkyl$ which is interrupted by $-O-$,
 R^{29} is H; $C_6-C_{18}aryl$; $C_6-C_{18}aryl$, which is substituted by $C_1-C_{24}alkyl$, or $C_1-C_{24}alkoxy$; $C_1-C_{24}alkyl$; or $C_1-C_{24}alkyl$ which is interrupted by $-O-$,
 R^{30} and R^{31} are independently of each other $C_1-C_{24}alkyl$, $C_6-C_{18}aryl$, or $C_6-C_{18}aryl$, which is substituted by $C_1-C_{24}alkyl$, and
 R^{32} is $C_1-C_{24}alkyl$, $C_6-C_{18}aryl$, or $C_6-C_{18}aryl$, which is substituted by $C_1-C_{24}alkyl$.